

Attorney Docket No.: **DEX-0532**
Inventors: **Macina et al.**
Serial No.: **10/523,834**
Filing Date: **April 26, 2006**
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REMARKS

Claims 19, 21-22, 25-27, 29-30, 33 and 34 are pending in the instant application. Claims 19, 21-22, 25-27, 29-30, 33 and 34 have been rejected. Claims 19 and 27 have been amended. No new matter is added by this amendment. Reconsideration is respectfully requested in light of the amendments and the following remarks.

I. Rejection of Claims 19, 25, 27 and 33 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b)

The rejection of claims 19, 25, 27 and 33 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Ashkar (WO 00/63247) has been maintained. The Examiner suggests that Ashkar teaches an antibody that would specifically bind an antigenic region comprising amino acid residues 226-240 of SEQ ID NO:265.

Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Applicants have amended the claims to recite that the antigenic region to which the antibody specifically binds is selected from the group consisting of:

- (a) amino acid residues 59-65 of SEQ ID NO: 265;
- (b) amino acid residues 71-83 of SEQ ID NO: 265;
- (c) amino acid residues 90-97 of SEQ ID NO: 265;
- (d) amino acid residues 130-141 of SEQ ID NO: 265;
- (e) amino acid residues 169-177 of SEQ ID NO: 265;
- (f) amino acid residues 186-193 of SEQ ID NO: 265;

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(g) amino acid residues 195-202 of SEQ ID NO: 265; and

(h) amino acid residues 226-240 of SEQ ID NO: 265.

Ashkar does not teach antibodies which specifically bind these antigenic regions.

Withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

II. Rejection of Claims 19, 21, 22, 25-27, 29, 30 and 33-34 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a)

The rejection of claims 19, 21, 22, 25-27, 29, 30 and 33-34 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ashkar (WO 00/63247) as applied to claims 19, 25, 27 and 33 and further in view of Muller et al., (US 2003/0118585) or Queen et al. (U.S. Patent 5,693,762) has been maintained.

Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Applicants have amended the claims to recite that an isolated monoclonal antibody wherein the antigenic region to which the antibody specifically binds is selected from the group consisting of:

(a) amino acid residues 59-65 of SEQ ID NO: 265;

(b) amino acid residues 71-83 of SEQ ID NO: 265;

(c) amino acid residues 90-97 of SEQ ID NO: 265;

(d) amino acid residues 130-141 of SEQ ID NO: 265;

(e) amino acid residues 169-177 of SEQ ID NO: 265;

(f) amino acid residues 186-193 of SEQ ID NO: 265;

(g) amino acid residues 195-202 of SEQ ID NO: 265; and

(h) amino acid residues 226-240 of SEQ ID NO: 265.

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Ashkar does not teach antibodies which specifically bind these antigenic regions.

Nor do the secondary references of Muller et al., (US 2003/0118585) or Queen et al. (U.S. Patent 5,693,762).

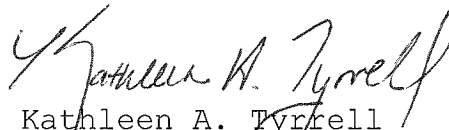
Accordingly, the cited combination of references does not teach or suggest all the claim limitations and therefore does not render obvious the instant claimed invention.

Withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

III. Conclusion

Applicants believe that the foregoing comprises a full and complete response to the Office Action of record. Accordingly, favorable reconsideration and subsequent allowance of the pending claims is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,


Kathleen A. Tyrrell
Reg. No. 38,350

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LICATA & TYRRELL P.C.
66 E. Main Street
Marlton, New Jersey 08053
(856) 810-1515